WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HURTING THE UNBORN

In Exodus 21:22-23, God gives the law concerning injury to the unborn. The passage reads as follows in the King James translation, which is closest to the original Hebrew:

“If men strive and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follows; he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follows, then thou shalt give life for life.”

The Hebrew word translated here as “mischief” is asone, which means “hurt.”

To paraphrase, if a pregnant woman gives birth because she is unintentionally injured in a fight between men, and the child suffers no harm, the men will still be punished according to the husband’s wishes, and judges will determine the compensation to be paid. If the child suffers harm and dies, it is considered murder and the men will be punished according to the punishment for a capital offense – a life for a life.

Thus, mother and unborn child were entitled to equal protection under the law.

In the Hebrew, the word translated as ‘fruit’ is y’deach, the plural of yeled – child. In scripture, this same word is used to denote all children, including the pre-born as in this passage.

If the unintentional killing of an unborn child is considered murder in God’s eyes, how much more grievous is abortion? Every yeled, whether born or unborn, is a beloved child of God – formed and known by Him even in the womb.

For a more detailed analysis of Exodus 21:22-23, see this article by Wayne Jackson on ChristianCourier.com: http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/786-does-exodus-21-sanction-abortion